

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 24 of 1878.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th June 1878.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of copies issued.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramjibī"	Barāhanagar	4,000	
2	"Rajshahye Sambād"	Rajshahye ... ..	.....
3	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	
4	"Arya Pratibhā"	Bhowanipore ... ..	.....
5	"Suhrid"	Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
6	"Culna Prakāsh"	Culna ... ..	.....
7	"Hindu Lalanā"	Nawabgunge, Barrack-pore. ... ..	.....
8	"Sahayogī"	Bhawānīpore, Calcutta ... ..	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	"Banga Hitaishī"	Bhowanipore ... ..	.....
10	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	658	6th June 1878.
11	"Bhārat Sanskarak"	Harināvi ... ..	.....	7th ditto.
12	"Bengal Advertiser"	Ditto ... ..	.....
13	"Bishwa Dūt"	Tāligunj, Calcutta ... ..	.....	12th ditto.
14	"Burdwan Prachārikā"	Burdwan	165	
15	"Burdwan Sangivani"	Ditto ... ..	.....	11th ditto.
16	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	400	9th ditto.
17	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	1,168	7th ditto.
18	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	200	12th ditto.
19	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	8th ditto.
20	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rajshahye ... ..	.....
21	"Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore ... ..	.....	7th ditto.
22	"Pratikār"	Ditto	235	7th ditto.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākinīā, Rungpore	250	25th April 1878.
24	"Sādhārānī"	Chinsurah	516	9th June 1878.
25	"Sahachara"	Calcutta ... ..	.....	10th ditto.
26	"Sambād Bhāskar"	Ditto ... ..	.....
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	5,500	8th ditto.
28	"Soma Prakāsh"	Bhawānīpore	700	10th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
29	"Banga Mitra"	Calcutta	4,000	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Sambād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	550	8th and 11th to 14th June 1878.
31	"Sambād Pūrnachandrodaya"	Ditto ... ..	.....	8th to 13th June 1878.
32	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	8th and 10th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto ... ..	.....	11th to 13th ditto.
34	"Arya Mihir"	Ditto ... ..	.....
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
35	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	300	9th June 1878.
36	"Murshidabad Patrikā"	Berhampore ... ..	.....	7th ditto.
37	"Burrisal Vartābaha"	Burrisal	300	
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	400	8th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Bi-monthly.</i>				
39	"Akhabār-ul-Akhiār"	Mozufferpore ... ..	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
40	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	509	12th ditto.
PERSIAN.				
41	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Calcutta	250	14th ditto.

POLITICAL.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 10th, 1878.

WRITING of the approaching Congress, the Editor of the *Som Prakash*

The approaching Congress.

gives three reasons, which, in his opinion, tend to hold out prospects of peace : first, the opposition of the Liberals, tradesmen and merchants and men of substance; secondly Russia's want of resources after the hard struggle with Turkey, and England's preparations, as also her present dignified attitude, intelligence of which has been conveyed by Count Schouvaloff to the Czar; and thirdly, the Presidency of Prince Bismarck at the Congress; who will gain great fame if he succeeds in effecting a peace, of which there is every probability; because Russia will not venture to disregard the German Chancellor's requests, and will therefore restrain her great desires for an extension of territory, though from Russia's past history, we fear this will be but temporary on her part. The stimulus given by Peter the Great, his famous Will about the future possession of India, and the great progress made by Russia during the past two centuries, the contiguity of her territories to India since the Crimean war, her trade, railways, telegraphs, emancipation of Serfs, &c., confirm this opinion.

SOM PRAKASH.

2. With reference to Lord Lytton's letter to the Native Princes,

The Native Princes and Feudatories.

the *Som Prakash* is glad to learn that the Under-Secretary for India has decided to adopt a policy of non-interference with the troops of the Native feudatories and Princes; because it was not proper to deprive them of their national honour, independence, and pride of race, and make them like empty drums. They add to the dignity of the British empire, are ready to assist the cause of their Empress, and fight for her in any country or clime. Britain's enemies will quake to see so great a help ready at hand; and Russia must have become not a little terrified on hearing of the troops departing from India. Again, if the Empress of India, after showing so much respect to, and faith in, the Native Chiefs, on the occasion of the assumption of the Imperial title, were to exhibit opposite feelings now, can it be expected that any devotion to the British Government will continue? Our present administrators seem to act differently, and to think that by exercising caution they will close the door to every ill; but their measures are likely to create discontent; the Arms and the Press Acts will suffice as instances.

BHARAT MIHIR,
June 6th, 1878.

3. The *Bharat Mihir* considers the raising of the question of early

Child marriage.

marriages to be very opportune at the present time. Its evil effects, both physical and mental, are everywhere discernible, and yet society is so blind that it will not see them. The remedy lies with our educated young men. So strong is our feeling against early marriages, that we would earnestly pray the Government to put a stop to them. It is not every social custom that should be regarded with indulgence. The cremation of widows with their husbands they abolished; they made the marriage of widows legal; early marriages, though not so frightful as the former, entail an evil of long standing; they not only destroy the lives of girls, but loosen the very bones of society.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
June 7th, 1878.

4. The *Education Gazette*, referring to the opposition by Mr. Bright

Agitation in England about the despatch of the Indian contingent.

and others against the participation of Indian troops in European warfare, remarks that it is indeed a matter of much surprise to see very excellent and wise Englishmen evince a kind of disgust at people of another religion. The Indian troops form a constituent part of the strength of the Empire; and if their assistance is not accepted when needed, where is the use of a kingdom? Is it not necessary to England's honor to exhibit the strength and discipline of the Indian army before other nations, and thereby terrify her enemies? The Queen's Government has shown that it has no end of resources upon which it can fall back if needed; so that its conduct in the present case is more

praiseworthy than blameable, inasmuch as the skill and strength of the Indian Army will now be shown off to advantage. The European Sovereigns may have thought hitherto that Indian troops were, through fear of losing caste, unwilling to go to Europe; they have not only been undeceived, but have had evidence of the deep-rooted attachment which the Native Army has for the Government; and does not this sufficiently set forth the high character of the administration of the British Government?

5. The *Hindu Hitaishini* complains of the way in which witnesses are made to dance attendance in courts day after day, cases being postponed for want of time.

Witnesses detained in courts.

The fault does not generally lie with the Judge, but with the rules of the court, and the way in which business is done in the office. Most of the witnesses are very poor, and the scanty remuneration they receive for their attendance barely suffices to pay for travelling and other expenses, and sometimes falls short of them. The parties to a suit are also in consequence subjected to heavier costs. It would be well if the Judge would make some strict rules, both as to fees for the attendance of witnesses and for appointing a stipulated time wherein their evidence should be taken. This is a subject of general complaint amongst people frequenting courts, and the sooner the difficulty is removed the better.

HINDU HITAIISHINI,
June 8th, 1878.

6. Referring to Mr. Garrett's proposal regarding the non-admittance of married candidates to the Entrance examination, the *Hindu Hitaishini* remarks, that almost all the native papers see in this proposal a great means for putting a stop to early marriages, and consequently express great joy: but Hindus do not wish Government to interfere with either their religious or social customs. Many have become alarmed at the proposal, and predict that it will bear no good fruit. Be that as it may, as the practice was dying out of itself, there was no necessity for resorting to compulsory measures. It is a matter much to be regretted that we (Bengalis) though deliberating upon the state of our society, are scarcely able to determine what is good and what is bad. Keshavchandra Sen, after having made a law, wilfully broke it. Nor does any one like to give up his independence and allow himself to be bound. We do not mean to defend early marriages, but what we say is this—if the practice is reprehensible, it will be checked by persevering efforts; but to regard chains as an ornament betokens lowness of character. We trust that members of the School Committees will not give their opinions without first taking the advice of learned men of position in society. It is not to be expected that youths will remain unmarried in Bengal up to 20 years of age, merely to enable them to pass the Entrance examination. The only result of the order is likely to be that it will deprive a great many of the youth of an opportunity of going up to the examination. Even if Mr. Garrett succeeds in drawing forth opinions favourable to his proposal, let him not expect that Hindu society will remain altogether passive in the matter.

HINDU HITAIISHINI.

Mr. Garrett's proposals as to the non-admission of married candidates to the Entrance examination.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* does not fall in with the opinions of the *Madras Mail* and the Press Commissioner as to the advisability of having stamped covers for newspapers. The Editor of this paper believes that, except that it may look neat and save the cost of paper for an envelope, there is nothing else desirable in this innovation; the disadvantages outweigh the advantages. At present newspapers are charged half an anna for single postage, for which the usual adhesive stamps are available, a sufficient number of which are kept in every Post Office. If then this rule were rescinded, and stamped covers only allowed, the usual stock of postage stamps would not be kept

Stamped covers for Newspapers.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 9th, 1878.

in deposit, and thus newspaper subscribers could not have the same facility of remitting their subscriptions in postage stamps, especially from stations where there are no money order offices.

Dacca Prakash,
June 9th, 1878.

8. This paper reverts to times long gone by, when there existed quite a reciprocity of good feeling between the landlord and the tenant; the latter always

Landlords and tenants.

submissive and respectful in his demeanour, and the former ready to sympathise with his tenant, and afford him every assistance in his power; but alas! times have changed for the worse, and instead of any such good feeling, the one seeks the fittest opportunity to harass the other. Government is well aware of the present deplorable state of affairs; and is doing all in its power to allay ill-feeling, by enacting laws and rules which hitherto have produced no good results, because the very root of the evil has not been effectually discovered. The zamindars think that the productive powers of the land have increased fourfold, and consider themselves hardly treated, because they do not receive a proportionate increase of rent, and are using their utmost endeavours to secure it; and this it seems the present state of the law prevents them from realizing. The ryots, on the other hand, cognizant of the protection which the law affords them, deprive the zamindars of their just demands, have sometimes gone so far so to create riots, and do no little injury to their landlords. The Bill introduced by the Hon'ble Kristodás Pál is given, with a promise of some remarks hereafter.

Dacca Prakash.

9. The *Dacca Prakash* regrets that the objections offered by the British Indian Association on the transfer of occupancy rights, not being considered satisfac-

Transfer of occupancy rights.

tory by the Lieutenant-Governor, have been returned for further consideration. They had stated that the creation of rights of occupancy for the ryots under Act X of 1859 was an infringement of the principles of the permanent settlement; and if the tenants were now to have the power of gift or sale over such rights, it would be indirectly making them proprietors of the land. Persons quite conversant with the condition of the country in every particular, are firmly of opinion that, if this right of occupancy had not been conceded to them, the present ill-feeling and disputes between landlords and tenants would never have come into existence; and the latter would, according to ancient usage, have continued to enjoy undisputed the produce of the land. Such recognition of the tenants' rights has led them to lay claim to actual proprietorship, to refuse the true proprietors, and enter wantonly upon disputes. If tenants had not been able to lay such a claim upon the strength of the law, the landlords would not have objected to a free enjoyment of the land, and would have done everything possible towards the improvement of agriculture. It is true that the practice of transferring occupancy rights has prevailed in some parts of the country; but if, on that ground, it should be permitted to be everywhere used, the ryots will become the virtual proprietors, and the landlords merely rent-collectors; and the noble idea of Lord Cornwallis in the perpetual settlement will no longer be realized. It is admitted that the landlords, as the actual proprietors of the land, have a great attachment for it, and have done much to improve it by the construction and maintenance of schools, dispensaries, and reservoirs in every village and hamlet. It must be admitted that if the ryot is permitted to transfer his rights of occupancy, he will be benefited thereby; but, on the other hand, this power if exercised would end in a large quantity of land coming into the possession of one tenant, who will eventually become a kind of a zamindar, from whom, cultivating ryots will take small portions of land on lease, and thus revert ultimately to their former condition of dependents. The result of the whole will be that the real proprietor will be lost sight of, and a lot of holdings and sub-holdings

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created, intervolved one with another. A tenant, becoming the proprietor of a right of occupancy, by transfer will lease the land out to another for purposes of cultivation; in the course of time this latter will have an occupancy right; and this will lead to endless litigation and trouble. Is such a state of things desirable? The Government should therefore devise measures to put an end to the dispute between landlords and tenants, and not promote them.

10. The Editor of this paper remarks that, by a general survey of history, we would arrive at the conclusion that there has been no change in the British administration of India from the time of Lord Clive to that of Lord Lytton; but to one who looks into it, and examines all its details, some change will appear to have taken place. There has been a gradual increase of the regal power; and this is what we designate an absolute rule, where neither public opinion has any influence, nor the people have any voice in the management of the State, and all political measures are carried out by the Sovereign or his deputy. To see the increase of such power in India has made us at the same time afraid and sad. From the 1st January 1877, the date of the assumption of the Imperial title, we observe a new state of affairs in India; which began to appear in the time of Lord Mayo, but is expanding under Lord Lytton's rule. We have no doubt whatever now that Earl Beaconsfield is the originator of this policy. The East is the land of his birth; he cannot forget Eastern methods of ruling. The East has seen nothing but the rule of power. In Russia and Germany, and other principal States in Europe, this form of government has continued unbroken; and he would increase the power and rights of the Sovereign and extend the shadow of this despotic rule; but he will not succeed in England, which is not a conquered country like India. After a long time, and with much pains, the English have attained the present honored system of government, and will not permit the least portion of it to be encroached upon. History shows that, where civilization, education, and knowledge have increased, the rule of power decreases, and that of the people increases. We had a firm belief hitherto in this policy; but in the change in India we begin to doubt it. Under the British Government the people have not decreased, but increased in knowledge and civilization. The English established peace and tranquillity in the land after all the turmoil and confusion attendant on the last days of Muhammadan sway; changes, too, for the better, have taken place; and it cannot be conscientiously asserted that its subjects are more opposed to the Government than before. They never were, and are not now, adverse to the English. Considering the change in the disposition of Government, we think that the natives of this country are no longer trusted by it as formerly. There could not be a greater error on the part of Government. It is not very difficult to trace its origin. The people, uneducated as they were formerly, were incapable of comprehending their rights; but so soon as large numbers received the benefits of education, they understood their claims and natural rights in their native land. Formerly they did nothing; but now they agitate matters at meetings, in the newspapers, and by memorials, and let Government know their minds. They have been distrusted, because at times, in their anguish, they have made use of strong language; but in fact they are not unworthy of trust. We looked upon those people as enemies of the country, who, on the occasion of the Queen's assumption of the Imperial title, predicted a hard despotism for India: we thought rather that the privileges of the natives would be increased; that they would not, on account of their nationality, be precluded from taking a share in the administration; but in practice we see the rule of power on the increase, unmistakable evidence of which is to be found in the Press and Arms' Acts, and the recent letter to the Rájáhs. Act X of 1872 is the most

SHARAT MINER,
June 6th, 1878.

stringent one enacted in all the world, no doubt; and almost of the same nature is Act X of 1877, which delegates so much power to the Magistrates. The Arms' Act has left the subjects of Government without arms. The letter to the Native Princes will virtually disarm them. Who will decide now whether the treaties between Government and its feudatory Princes have been infringed or not?

SADHARANI,
June 9th, 1878.

11. Referring to the recent letter of Mr. Secretary Mackenzie to the British Indian Association, regarding the proposed amendment of the Rent Law, the

Transfer of occupancy rights.

Sadharani writes three articles in succession: the first is headed the "Law for the transfer of occupancy rights," from which the following extracts are made:—Sir Richard Temple was exceedingly partial to the zamindars; and if the provisions of the law for the prevention of agrarian disputes, which was passed during his administration, were carried out, the tenantry would have long ere this been totally ruined. This partiality of Sir Richard for the zamindars led him into many errors concerning the land tenures of Bengal. He would let slip no opportunity to assert that the number of occupancy tenants was daily increasing. We, on more than one occasion, pointed out to him that this was an error. Ever since the passing of Act X of 1859, the zamindars have never allowed the tenants to hold freely for 12 years, unless the leases were occasionally renewed. Nor do they now receive rents from their tenants on the same rate for 20 years, if they can avoid it. Though the rents might be received for that term, the receipts given are not for the same holdings; this is of course due to the ignorance of their true interests by the landlords. Be the cause what it may, it is a fact that they are extremely unwilling to allow occupancy rights to their tenantry. While this is the case on the one hand, hundreds of occupancy tenures are, on the other, daily being sold by auction for arrears of rent, or swept away by the encroachments of the Padma and other rivers, or are lapsing to the direct management of the zamindars, in consequence of the tenants dying without heirs; so that, since the landlords are opposed to the growth of occupancy rights, which are likewise becoming extinct from the operation of causes over which man has no control, it is quite clear that the number of tenants possessing such rights is rather gradually decreasing than increasing. Three years ago we wrote on all these points in opposition to the views of Sir Richard Temple, and our article was ordered to be translated in its entirety; for what purpose we know not. Our opinions were then considered inconsistent and ridiculed (*vide* paragraph 18, Report for 28th August 1875), and now, after so long a time, we see the *Statesman*, in its issue of the 1st June, expressing views identically the same with ours. Sir Ashley Eden is now trying to bring in a law for the transfer, by sale, gift, or mortgage, of occupancy rights in Behar and Bengal, the existing one being rather vague in its application.

The second article is headed—"What are the views of the zamindars themselves on this subject?" Without stopping to reply to the arguments put forth by the British Indian Association, to the effect "that the creation of occupancy tenures under Act X of 1859 was an encroachment upon the rights of the landlord under the permanent settlement," Sir Ashley Eden has asked them to reconsider the question. We cannot understand why His Honor should ply the landlords with advice, because we are quite sure they will never consent to the proposition: this was remarked by Sir George Campbell and by ourselves among the rest. They may ask Government to introduce the measures proposed on the Wards' Estates and others which are directly under its management, and make them model estates; so that the zamindars may copy the example; and in that case

no law will be necessary; as from observing the good arrangement of things, and the enhanced profits which will accrue from this new state of affairs on the Wards' Estates, the landlords will of their own accord gladly adopt the same measures. We fully approved of the views of Sir George Campbell regarding the management of Wards' Estates, and have consequently always remarked that people will hesitate to follow the counsels of Government, if it will not itself set the example. Why should landlords act otherwise, when Government itself, in managing the estates of minors, seeks by especial agreement to destroy the occupancy rights of the tenant? We would therefore observe that Government, while it has asked for an expression of opinion on this question from the British Indian Association, should also gradually offer facilities to the tenants on Wards' Estates for the transfer of occupancy rights. There can be no doubt that Sir Ashley Eden has raised this question with the purest of motives, and it is no wonder that to us, who seek the good of the ryots, it has given great satisfaction. Still we cannot ask Government at once to resort to legislation. In seeking to define the rights of landlords and tenants, Government has on many occasions committed such blunders, and has done such harm to tenants, although actuated by the best of motives, that we cannot advise it to have recourse to any special legislation. We do not believe that the application of a bit of sticking-plaster in one place, or a little ointment in another, will heal this widespread sore. Mr. Secretary Mackenzie's letter contains also another proposal, with the whole of which we cannot agree.

The third article has the heading "Middlemen," with reference to which the Editor has the following remarks:—We do not admit that by making a provision in the law "to prevent an occupancy ryot from converting himself into a middleman" any great improvement in his condition will take place. It appears to us that the enactment of any such provision would be in direct opposition to the duties of Government. If a cultivating tenant is not allowed the chance of raising himself gradually to the rank of a middleman, wherein does his hope of advancement consist? Another thing to be observed is this: that although the system of sub-letting is in one respect reprehensible, inasmuch as it increases the pressure on the cultivating tenant, still it can be freed from this defect by altering the principles which now regulate the rent rate. If rent were made payable in grain, and a certain proportion of the produce were required as rent due from the cultivating tenant, any amount of sub-letting would not affect his income. Were some such principles fixed on to regulate the rent rate, the practice of sub-letting would die off altogether, or continue, if it did, under conditions which would not prove injurious to the interests of the tenants. As it is, the proposal made by the Lieutenant-Governor, apparently without attending to this side of the question, viz. to prevent the creation of middlemen by resorting to special legislation for the purpose, can never be approved of.

12. In an article communicated to this paper from Orissa, the writer deploras the very backward state in which the language of that country is at present; for,

The Vernacular Press Act.

beside three newspapers, there is nothing else in this province which holds out any hopes of improvement; and these were in fact our teachers and guides, and conveyed our griefs and sorrows to Government; but small as these expectations were, Act IX has dashed them to the ground. The Magistrate has twice warned the *Utkal Darpana*; which it is rumoured has closed in consequence. What will our condition be, when the Editors may not write as they please, but are doomed to pass a kind of inert life? Let

SADHARANI,
June 9th, 1878.

history tell whether Orissa has ever been found seditious ; and let the report of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor on the occasion of his last visit speak. What fear then can Government have of such weak and helpless creatures as we *Uryas* are ? Why have the tongues of the lifeless *Uryas* been silenced ?

SULABHA SAMACHARA,
June 8th, 1878.

13. In an article headed "Confidence begets confidence," the *Sulabha Samáchar* makes the following remarks:—The want of confidence between rulers, subjects, and the Native Princes. want of confidence which Government feels towards its subjects is gradually increasing. They who were hitherto deemed trustworthy are now put down as seditious and not to be trusted. The Arms' and the Press Acts are two good instances of this ; to which must be added the recent letter about their armies to those Native Princes who had so readily come forward with offers of assistance. Such conduct towards them is, to say the least of it, improper. There are at present 320,000 troops and 5,300 guns maintained at a cost of ten crores and twenty lakhs of rupees in all these independent kingdoms. The Rájás will now no longer be able to keep disciplined troops, nor drill them by the aid of European officers ; but the English will keep an observant eye on their artillery, and the Government further is not prepared to accept the aid proffered by them. Wherefore, and what is their great crime ? After so much flattery, servility, devotion and entreaty, the Rájás have not been able to secure the friendship of the English. They do not possess that independence which the commonest individual has under the British Government ; they have lost their very manhood, strength, and intellect by frequent threatenings. We often find ourselves at a loss for a word which may apply to the Rájás. Our very lips recoil from calling them independent ; they are, as it were, wavering in this their distressful state of independence. They cannot see wherein their power lies. On the one side, many of the Rájás have become nonentities by their folly, their polygamy and evil desires, superadded to which come the Government threatenings. Where then can there be any ease or comfort from a sense of sovereignty ? Affairs, as they stand between Government and its subjects, both small and great, betoken an ever-increasing want of confidence. For this matter Government is the most to blame, inasmuch as it has brought things to this pass by constant irritation. The world moves in confidence ; people may quarrel and fight, that is nothing ; but when once mistrust makes its way into their midst, all intercourse and companionship are lost. If an Englishman has a dread of receiving his victuals from his *khansamahs*, then his food must be at once stopped. Since the rulers have to place their trust in their subjects at every step, is it well to show a want of confidence ? It is possible for the weak to have their confidence betrayed ; but would it be any loss to the great and powerful English if they were to trust the helpless and weak people of India ? Are not the very mutinous *sepoys* carrying out the Government orders to this day with trustworthiness ? In conclusion, we say that there is nothing to gain from a want of confidence ; but, on the contrary, much might be done by the exercise of implicit trust and reliance.

SAMACHAR,
June 10th, 1878.

14. The *Sahachar* defends the Judges against the charge of partiality brought by some of the native newspapers against them in the Pooree Rájá's case, who have insinuated that the Judges would have acted differently had the criminal been a European. Lord Cornwallis made the executive and the judicial quite distinct from each other, so that a private individual, as well as Government, would be equally subject to the courts of justice. No one can deny that the Zillah and High Court Judges decide cases without fear, favor or partiality, and irrespective of caste, color, creed, or race, though Europeans may be now and then let off. The Pooree

Attacks by some native newspapers against the Judges in the Pooree Rájá's case.

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Rájá had a fair trial in both the lower and upper courts, was defended by the ablest of counsel; but the assessors, who were not lawyers, pronounced him innocent; consequently it is wrong to accuse the Judges of race partiality; and those who wish well to the country should learn to respect the law and its administration, and anything tending to produce want of confidence is to be deprecated. The Rájá could not but be convicted on the evidence brought so clearly against him in both the courts. The writers who inveigh against the sentence would seem to hold that there must be one law for the rich and another for the poor. This can only happen in a country where the very fountain head of justice is polluted.

15. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* remarks that much was expected from

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1878.

Letter of the Government of India
to the Native Princes.

Lord Lytton on his landing in the country; but he has quite disappointed public expectation by his subsequent deeds, more especially his assenting to the Press and Arms' Acts. By the former he has stopped the mouths of all his Indian subjects; and he, so eminently learned a man, has laid the axe at the very root of their language; by the latter he has disarmed the whole of India; and to crown all, he has by his letter of the 25th May, to the Native Princes, practically deprived them too of arms. There was no cause or reason for Lord Lytton's fears, which are altogether misplaced, since the Native Princes are well-wishers of, and attached to, the British Government; and this not outwardly through fear, but because they really and truly have the welfare of India at heart. Their loyal conduct during the mutiny will serve to prove the truth of the above assertion. The Governor-General's letter nowhere imputes to the Native Princes any disloyalty or discontent towards the British Government. How came, then, Lord Lytton to endorse such a letter? Was it through the strength of his poetical imagination that he saw rocks ahead in the distant future? Be that as it may, we take upon ourselves to assure him that the Native Princes are true friends of the British; and if the number of their troops is lessened, or any obstacles put in the way of drilling and properly disciplining them, it will be not only very disadvantageous to the English Government in other ways, but cost them additional expense to make up for the reduction by adding to the number of their own troops; when we no doubt will have to meet the extra expenditure.

16. The Editor of this paper, in an article on trials by jury, commences

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.

Trial by jury.

by saying that opinions are divided as to their utility; though every one must freely admit

that the object of this institution is both noble and lofty, having a direct tendency to mete out impartial justice to all alike. The administrators of justice may very properly be divided into two parts—first, those wise, learned, and able men who have gone through a regular course of legal training, and receive fixed stipends for the performance of their duties; secondly, unpaid individuals who are summoned when wanted; and these are selected indiscriminately. When these two different sets of judges sit down to investigate a case, the faults and inexperience of the one are counteracted by the depth of learning and wisdom of the other; so that the result of their decisions is always sure to be approved. Hence it is that civilized nations look upon such a tribunal as the foundation of all their grandeur, which has given the English a name for pure and undiluted justice; and to them are we indebted for introducing this noble institution into our country, though for various reasons it has not shone forth in all its lustre as it might have done. Many are of opinion that the time is premature for the introduction of this system, and that people cannot attach to the jury system the real value which it deserves; moreover, that the present state of the country is not adapted for its introduction, or that it is like casting pearls before swine. The Editor

of this paper will not, however, admit that India is unfit for the reception of trial by jury, inasmuch as this land is, and has ever been, the mine of ancient law—civil, religious and moral—which has astonished all the nations of the globe. Again, much similarity is seen to exist between the jury and *panchayat* systems. Amongst the faults which tend to vitiate the jury system, there is one which demands consideration, and that is the rule of *selection*. Good, God-fearing, just and disinterested persons should be chosen for the discharge of such important functions; and, thanks to English education, there is no place where at least two or four such men cannot be found. Next, the jury should receive proper respect and attention whilst in court, and not be subjected to fines for the most trivial matter. These and sundry other opportune rules will drive away all the few existing defects of the jury system, and tend to raise it to its own natural pre-eminence.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1878.

17. Burdwan, says this paper, was half a century ago held in such good repute for its salubrity of climate, that doctors used invariably to send their sick patients there for change of air and recovery; but with the year 1868 commenced that fatal inroad of the epidemic fever which, with slight variations, has continued up to the present time. From observation, this fever seems to have a close connection with the rainfall, the maximum or minimum of which produces a proportionate increase or decrease in this disease. It must be remarked, however, that, when the earth becomes well saturated for two or three months in succession during the rainy season, the disease loses its strength; while, at other times, when it has rained in excess for two or three days in succession, people have soon afterwards been attacked with fever. Again, so long as the rains last, and the earth is well saturated with water, there is no exhibition of fever; but when the water begins to dry off, the disease appears in its full strength; so that, from the middle of June to the middle of August, fevers are not virulent; but from about the end of August to October the disease re-appears in great force; and when the earth is completely dry, it disappears altogether. Many have been the causes assigned for the origin of epidemic fever, but the currently received opinion among the learned is, obstruction to free drainage is the true cause; and this has led to instructions having been issued to the Magistrates of the affected districts to adopt proper measures and look well after the drainage. And yet we may ask why these precautions were not used long before, in the places where the fever at first appeared (before even it came to Burdwan), playing sad havoc everywhere, and leaving in some places half, in others one-third, and even one-fourth of their inhabitants? Perhaps we will receive as an answer that the obstruction to the passage of the water caused the fever, and when this was removed all went right again. Yet it may again be asked, whether any change in the drainage has taken place since the epidemic fever made its first appearance in Burdwan and up to the present time? The Editor closes this article by making the following assertions:—"We have been here for a great length of time; have been witnesses of the first appearance of the epidemic fever and its subsequent virulence, and seen a doctor in consequence appointed to every four or five villages; have also witnessed the fever gradually decrease; but we have not as yet observed any attempts made for the improvement of the drainage or for the outlet of water." The Editor promises to revert to the same matter in his next issue.

GRAMVARTA
PRAKASHIK,
June 11th, 1878.

The Press Act and the License
Tax.

18. The *Gramvarta Prakashika* observes that mistrust of the rulers in the native newspapers led to the passing of the Press Act; but the most surprising thing is, that our fellow countrymen, too, seem to have lost all confidence in us; yet in the unenviable position which we fill, we still

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hesitate not to seek the welfare of our country: we still mourn and weep over our difficulties, and notwithstanding that the Government contemns us, we fail not to represent our grievances in the proper quarter: so that, in pursuance of this recognized principle, we take up the subject of the license tax, which no doubt has been justly imposed to make up the money spent in the famine; but the process adopted, and the rules framed to collect it, are very unsatisfactory, though the Act passed through such able hands as the Bengal and Imperial Legislative Councils. Some tradesmen have been so hard pressed that they will have to give up trade and betake themselves to other and more desirable modes of subsistence. Foreign merchants, who have houses established in Calcutta, will be taxed to the extent of 500 Rupees only, because they have no places of business elsewhere in the country, and that though their trade might involve three or four crores of rupees; while on the other hand, traders with a far smaller capital of about 25,000 Rupees, being obliged to keep up more places of business than one, will have to pay a tax of about 1,500 Rupees; and with the disadvantages to trade arising from traffic by rail, it may be difficult for a trader to realize that sum as profit on his capital. All that will be left for them will be to close their places of business. The small trader deserves more sympathy than the large firm, but here it seems the case is contrary. For this apparent partiality the Legislative Council is necessarily to blame; they have been working quite in the dark, and have been the victims of inexperience. It was their duty to have taken into consultation a person of each class in respect of whom they had to legislate. The merciful British Government is besought to divest the License Tax Act of all its surrounding entanglings, and put it into a plain and intelligible form; and let this work be moreover entrusted to men of judgment and discretion; otherwise the poor subjects will be ruined. If, in addition to the already heavy burden of the famine pressing on them, the poor subjects be compelled to bear unjustly the weight of the license tax, as it is, there would be no end to their misfortune.

19. The *Bishwa Dutt*, alluding to a case wherein a woman was murdered near Behála, and three men were convicted of the crime and sentenced to death by the

BISHWA DUT,
June 12th, 1878.

On capital punishment. Sessions Judge, remarks that, although it is anxious to see criminals meet with due punishment, yet it is quite averse to the doctrine of "life for life." In this view, the Editor says he is supported by public opinion in civilized Europe, in some countries of which executions have been already stopped. The Government here is besought to follow that example. In the present case, three lives will be taken for one, which cannot be considered in any way just. The plea that the hanging of the murderer is not intended as a punishment for the criminal, but as an example and warning to others, does not hold good; inasmuch as murders do not appear to cease. Since drink, greed of money, and anger are the principal incentives to the commission of murder; education, good example, and moral and religious instruction should be the preventives employed by Government. Hanging does not benefit the criminal, but it tends to harden the spectators and make them quite callous; transportation for life is just the thing, securing every object, whether it concerns the offender or the public. God, the giver of life, is the only one who can take it; and man should not be so presumptuous as to arrogate to himself Divine powers. "Life for life" answers well amongst uncivilized nations, but is a blot and a stain on civilization.

LOCAL.

20. This paper complains of the inefficient and imperfect watering of the roads during the present hot weather in Burdwan, the blame of which is cast on the Vice-Chairman and Manager of the Municipality.

Complaints against the Burdwan Municipality.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1878.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1878.

21. An anonymous correspondent, writing to this paper, complains that Kánu junction, which has been the seat of the head post office during the last eleven years, has been converted into a branch post office of Burdwan. This arrangement has caused very great inconvenience to the public and to rice-dealers especially, who had settled down here to purchase rice and grain from the surrounding villages. These *mahájans* generally receive bearing letters; which, as a matter of course, are forwarded to the head office at Burdwan, thereby necessitating much delay, loss and inconvenience. In the next place, *Kánu*, being the junction of the loop and chord lines, is the fittest place for a head office. A memorial is about to be forwarded to the Post Master General on the matter.

BANGA-VIDYA
PRAKASHIKA,
June 11th, 1878.

22. The *Banga-vidyá Prakáshiká* complains of the great inconvenience to the public, especially during the present excessively hot weather, arising from an inadequate supply and sometimes a total want of drinking water, during some intervals of the day, when the heat is the most trying. The heads of the municipality are requested to attend to this matter.

SANGHAT PURN-
CHANDRODAYA,
June 11th, 1878.

23. The *Sanghát Púrnochandrodaya*, complaining of a deficiency in the drinking water-supply of Calcutta, says that the devil gets into the pipes sometimes and stops the water, putting the Bengalis especially to the greatest inconvenience. The God Varuna is solicited to look a little after the Bengali quarter. People in *Mániktólá* complain of the water being shut off from the main pipe rather earlier than usual, thereby causing no end of trouble and annoyance. The Bengalis require water almost every moment; and it is to be hoped that no obstacle to their desire for a good and continuous supply will be interposed by the municipality.

EDUCATION.

SANGHAT PURN-
CHANDRODAYA.

24. Amongst various causes tending to the decay and depreciation of Bengali literature, this paper mentions the following:—Those Bengalis who are well educated in English show a decided contempt for Bengali books and newspapers. The middle class could, if they wished it, spend a little money for the encouragement of Bengali literature, but they, too, belong to the first section, *i.e.* the educated; so that the scarcely perceptible support given by the rich to the language and literature of their country is a very great piece of misfortune. The last class comprises those who, though they have the wish, do not possess the means wherewith to purchase books. Estimating the population of Bengal at 60 millions, and taking into calculation the fact that the circulation of the very best works scarcely amounts to 1,000 at the highest; we have one book to 60,000 people. Whence, then, can we expect our language to improve? It is altogether improbable that the language of a country can improve where no encouragement is held out to the authors.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 15th June 1878.

JOHN ROBINSON,
Government Bengali Translator.